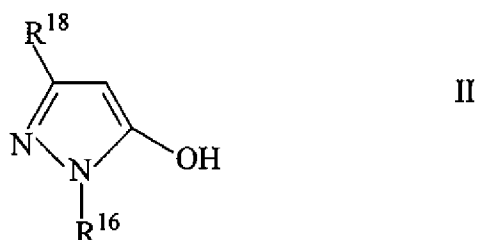
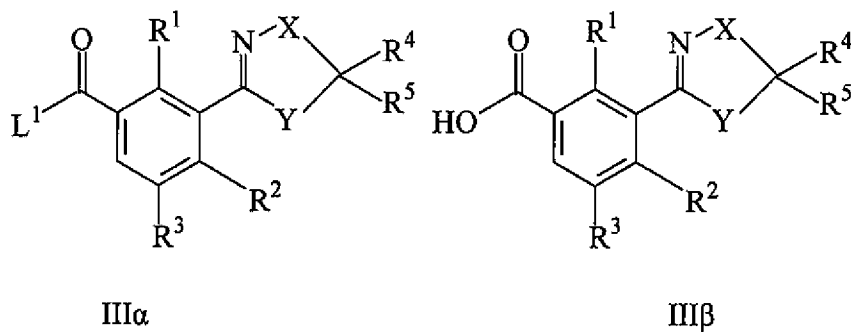


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

17. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of the 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of formula I defined in claim 28, which comprises acylating a pyrazole of the formula II

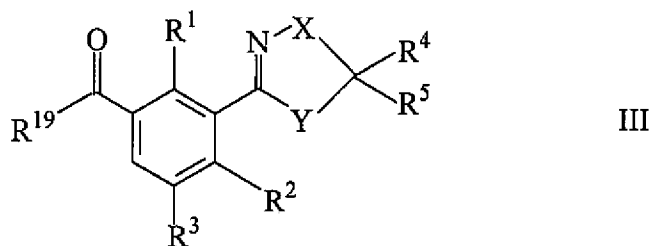


with an activated carboxylic acid III α or with carboxylic acid III β



where wherein L¹ is a nucleophilically displaceable leaving ~~group~~ group, and subjecting the acylation product to a rearrangement reaction to give the compound I.

18. (currently amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III,



~~where~~ wherein

- R¹⁹ is hydroxyl or a radical which can be removed by hydrolysis,
R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;
R² is nitro, halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;
R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;
R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl, and R⁵ is hydrogen;
X is O;
Y is CR¹³R¹⁴;
R¹³, R¹⁴ are hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxycarbonyl or CONR⁷R⁸;
R⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl; and
R⁸ is C₁-C₄-alkyl.

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, where R¹⁹ is halogen, hydroxyl or C₁-C₆-alkoxy.

21. (previously presented) A composition comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28, and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop

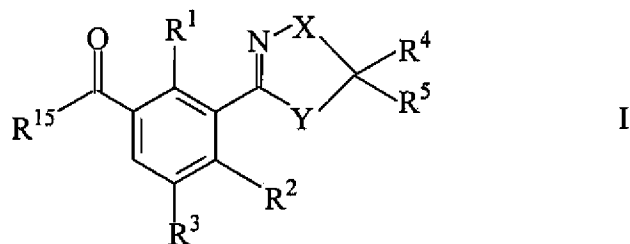
protection products.

22. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of the composition defined in claim 21, which comprises mixing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I and auxiliaries conventionally used for the formulation of crop protection products.

23. (previously presented) A method of controlling undesirable vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I defined in claim 28 to act on plants, their environment and/or on seeds.

24. - 27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I



wherein

X is O;

R¹ is C₁-C₂-alkyl, methoxy or methylsulfonyl;

R² is nitro, halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₆-haloalkylsulfonyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl, and R⁵ is hydrogen;

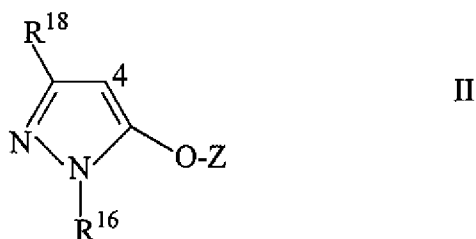
Y is CR¹³R¹⁴;

R^{13} , R^{14} are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxycarbonyl or $CONR^7R^8$;

R^7 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^8 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^{15} is a pyrazole of the formula II which is linked in the 4-position



wherein

R^{16} is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

Z is H; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or methyl.

29. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

30. (previously presented) 4-[2-Methyl-3-(4,5-dihydroisoxazol-3-yl)-4-methylsulfonylben-zoyl]-1-methyl-5-hydroxy-1H-pyrazole.

31. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methyl-sulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is ethyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

32.-33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula

I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is methyl.

35. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

36. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein R^1 is methyl.

37. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl.

38. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is ethyl and R^{18} is hydrogen.

39. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 35, wherein R^1 is methyl, R^2 is methylsulfonyl, R^3 is hydrogen, R^{16} is methyl and R^{18} is methyl.

40. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

41. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein R^1 is methyl.

42. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 40, wherein R^1 is methyl.

43. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein R^4 denotes hydrogen.

44. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 20, wherein R^1 is methyl.

45. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 43, wherein R^1 is methyl.

46. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 45, wherein R^2 is methylsulfonyl and R^3 is hydrogen.

47. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I defined in claim 28, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1 - C_2 -alkyl;

R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio or C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13} , R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

48. (previously presented) The composition defined in claim 21, comprising a herbicidally active amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoyl compound of the formula I or of the agriculturally useful salt of I, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1 - C_2 -alkyl;

R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio or C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13} , R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

49. (previously presented) The 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid compound of the formula III defined in claim 18, wherein

X is O;

R^1 is C_1 - C_2 -alkyl;

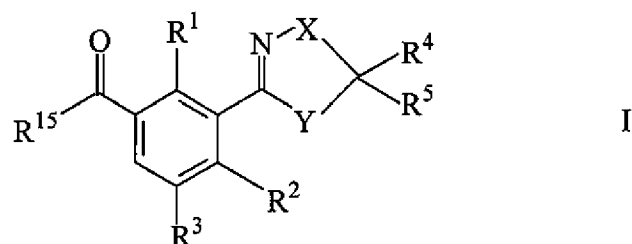
R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio or C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

Y is $CR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13} , R^{14} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

50. (currently amended) A compound represented by formula I



wherein

R^1 is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio or C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl;

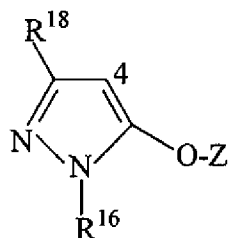
R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

X is oxygen ~~$CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;~~

Y is $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl; ~~oxygen, and~~

R^{15} is a pyrazole of formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

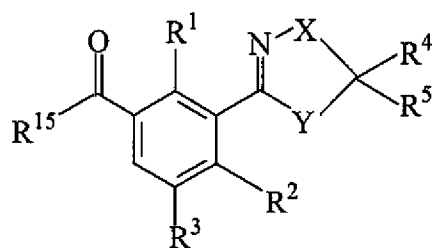
R^{16} is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

Z is hydrogen or SO_2R^{17} , wherein

R^{17} is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 -alkyl.

51. (new) A herbicide characterized by containing one or more compounds represented by formula I



I

wherein

R^1 is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio or C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl;

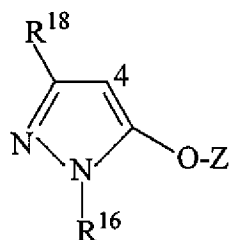
R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

X is oxygen $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

Y is $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl; oxygen, and

R^{15} is a pyrazole of formula II



II

which is linked in the 4-position, wherein

R^{16} is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

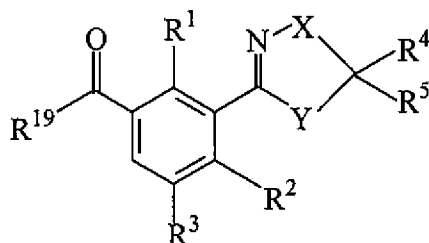
Z is hydrogen or SO_2R^{17} , wherein

R^{17} is phenyl or phenyl which is partially or fully halogenated and/or has attached to it one to three of the following groups: C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy; and

R^{18} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 -alkyl,

as active ingredients.

52. (currently amended) A compound represented by formula III



III

wherein

R^{19} is hydroxyl or C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy;

R^1 is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl;

R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio or C_1 - C_6 -alkylsulfonyl;

R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 and R^5 are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

X is oxygen ~~$CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;~~ and

Y is $CR^{10}R^{11}$, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl ~~oxygen.~~